Minister of Agriculture, Ministry of Finance and Minister of State for Labour. The GOM met on 29.8.97 to recommend steps for liquidation of past statutory dues to workers and prevent such defaults in the future. Already, as a result of efforts taken so far, outstanding arears to workers including wages have registered a notable decline over time.

Plight of Indians Travelling without proper documents

1016. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the plight of the Indians who have been taken to foreign countries, particularly Germany without proper permission/documents from those countries;

(b) whether the Indian Embassy in Belarus has shot a film in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken by Government to ensure that the innocent people of the country are not harassed by the travel agents and also by the officials of those countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Embassy of India in Belarus has shot a film titled "Road to Germany" in Belarus narrating experiences of some Indian illegal migrants whose ultimate destination was Germany throgh Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania and/or Poland, The quality of the film was not sound enough to telecast it in the mass media.

(d) With a view to ensuring that the recruting agencies/employers do not exploit the Indian workers, there are numerous procedural safeguards. The following guidelines/provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983 already exist to curb nefarious activities of recruiting agencies:—

(1) The Emigration Act, 1983 contains adequate legal and penal provisions to curb/control the activities of the illegal recruiting agencies. All offences under the act are cognizable.

(2) Recruitment of Indian workers for work abroad is done only through the registered Recruiting Agents. As and when cases involving recruitment by illegal agents come to the notice of the Government, immediate action is taken to refer the matter to the police authorities.

(3) Employment documents in respect of all workers in whose case emigration clearance is required are properly scrutinised in the POE Offices with a view to ensuring that the workers are sent against genuine demands only.

(4) Immigration authorities at International Airport have been advised from time to time, to scrutinise the passports and other related documents before
allowing the workers to emigrate.

(5) Missions abroad intimate the names of the fraudulent recruiting agents/employers to the Protector General of Emigrants, Ministry of Labour. Such employers are included in "Prior Approval Category" (PAC) and any further recruitment for these agencies is stopped, till such time a fresh positive recommendation is received from the Indian Mission abroad.

अहमदाबाद में कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम के मुख्यालय का प्रशासनिक ढांचा

1017. **श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे:** क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या अहमदाबाद, गुजरात में कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम के मुख्यालय का कार्यकरण और प्रशासनिक ढांचा अत्यधिक असंतोषप्रद है और इसमें करोड़ों रुपए का वित्तीय घोटाला प्रकाश में आया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार की इस पर क्या प्रतिक्रिया है;